

Children's Department.

THE BEST PLACE TO STAY.

Patty and Peggy had been listening to mamma and her caller in the parlor—not down on their knees, of course, with their ears to the keyhole, but just a little nice way of listening, as anybody may when the door is ajar and people don't care about making their voices any lower.

The caller was speaking.

"No, my dear woman"—

"She isn't her dear woman at all," whispered Patty snappily, bending forward to get a look at Mrs. Primley's best bonnet with the tall, stiff, nodding black beads on top; "she's our dear woman, and you sha'n't have a piece of her."

"You do yourself a great wrong," went on the lady, never knowing that she had been interrupted, "when you allow yourself to be overridden by your cares and duties till you have no time at all to call your own. For me, I never let any one disturb me. Once I have gone away to be alone there I stay with my Bible and my happy thoughts till the hour is past. Children may cry, callers may come; it makes no difference. Every woman needs to take time to be alone with God a great many hours in a week, and nothing ought to interfere."

Mamma's eyes were cast down on a bit of hemming that she had in her hands, so the children could not see how her eyes looked, but they heard her even voice say presently a verse of a sweet old hymn:—

"Or if 't is e'er denied thee
In solitude to pray,
If holy thoughts come o'er thee
When friends are round thy way,"—

"Oh, yes; I know all about that," interrupted the visitor impatiently. "That is all very well, but I will still say that you make a mistake when you let these children and the house or even your sick sister keep you away from our dear meetings as you do. I came to talk to you just about that. I am sure if you only began to come again as you used to do, you would say that it is good to be there."

"I do not doubt that," said mamma again. "I always love to be in the place of prayer. It is only a question of the best place to stay."

"Grandmother," said Peggy, sitting on a cricket at her feet that night, as she always did for a while to have "a bedtime talk" before it was time for dreaming, "I wish you'd tell me what is the best place to stay."

"The best place, dearie?" said grandma, smiling. "That depends. I could n't answer that question right off, as I can knit the round of a stocking."

"Well, you know," began Peggy. And then she told her all about the talk she and Patty listened to.

"Oh, bless you," said grandma, laughing at their way of telling it, "that's easy settled. The best place to stay is where the Lord is. If there's any work or helping or comforting to be done anywhere, that's the place to look for him, for he's sure to be there. But when it is done and you can have a quiet spell, why, then he dearly loves to have you sit down with him, an' take it. That's the best place—where he wants you to be at the time."

"Yes," said Peggy. "I thought you'd know. I'll go tell Patty."

From New Enterprise, Ind.

This is my second attempt to write for the children's column, but it is my delight to write, for I like to read the letters from the children. They are so interesting. I like to go to school for we have such a good teacher. We are going to organize Sabbath-school next Sunday and I want to go every Sunday that I can. They say that Sister Dickey has come back to the Brethren church. There will be a baptism at the Olive Branch to-morrow by the Church of God people. My little brother will be two years old the 27th of August, and he is a joy to our home. When I go to school he says good-bye and when I come home he says, hello there. I think he is awful sweet. I will be eleven years old the 21st of October. I am sorry to say that we are not going to use the Brethren literature. We are going to have a union Sabbath-school and most of them are in for Cook's literature.

March 22. TELFORD KEIM.

From Buckeye City, Ohio.

I thought it was time for me to write for the EVANGELIST as I have not seen a letter from this place for some time. I was at Sunday-school this morning. We have a very nice Sunday-school. My teacher's name is Miss Nannie Ross. We like her very much. My mamma is a member of the Brethren church, and I am also a member. I joined the church when I was nine years old. We organized a King's Children society of about fifty members. Mr. Robert Workman is the president. We like him very much. I hope I may do more for my heavenly Master in my future days. I often think what a pleasure it would be to work for the Lord who has done so much for us. We have preaching here every two weeks by Brother Grisso. We like him very much. If this letter is accepted I will write again. I will close by asking a question. Who walked on the waters? Yours truly,

March 19. URSHAL BURRIS.

From Ashland, Ohio.

Our revival meeting has closed. We have a large class in our Sunday-school. Mr. Miller is our pastor. He has been preaching very good sermons. Miss Myers leads our next meeting in King's Children. We have thirty-one members. Some of the students have stopped school and gone home to work on the farm. Brother Miller went to Pittsburg, Penn., to attend the love-feast over Sunday.

ZELLA RITTENHOUSE.

This is my first letter for the EVANGELIST. Our meeting closed last Sunday. We had some very interesting sermons. My brother, Ira Cooper, made a turn to follow our Lord Jesus Christ. I love to read the children's letters. I am eleven years old. I belong to the Brethren church.

Your friend,

March 28. MAUD COOPER.

From Belleville, Ohio.

This is my first letter for the EVANGELIST this year. Our school closed in March. I was twelve years old last January. Mamma belongs to the Brethren church. When I get older I will join church too. I will try to answer Bessie Shanabarger's question; Honor thy father and thy mother. How many letters does the Bible contain?

March 21. CLARK IRVIN LOVS.

From Wooster, Ohio.

I will write another letter for the Children's column. I was in Sunday-school to-day. My grandpa was out to see us last week. We like to have him come to see us. My little sister is at her grandma Hart's. She is having a nice time. I would like to be there too, but I have to go to school. We had vacation last week. Mamma and David and I are alone this week, papa is on the road. It is very lonesome. This is a nice day and I like to get out to play.

March 30. ZORA GARVER.

TRUE religion is no variable product. It is a system of fixed principles and abiding truths. It calls for a constant exemplification. Faith and practice must go hand in hand. There is but the one Saviour for us all, and the one Bible for the enlightenment and guidance of heart and life. Christianity was never given to be re-adjusted to human notions and ideas with advancing eras, but to be accepted and exemplified as the years come and go. It needs no new light thrown upon it, but man needs its fresh light thrown upon his changing conditions. He must conform at all times to its standard.—*The Presbyterian*.